UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/800
S/1997/142
19 February 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 33
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 18 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in January 1997.

2 January 1997

At 1100 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm came under Israeli artillery fire.

Between 1630 and 1730 hours the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills, outlying areas of Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju' and Luwayzah and areas along the Nab' al-Tasah came under Israeli artillery fire.

3 January 1997

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under artillery fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

At 1000 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Luwayzah and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills, while the artillery bombardment of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area continued.

At 1110 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at high altitude.

4 January 1997

At 1250 hours outlying areas of Luwayzah and Jarju' and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1415 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills while the Israeli artillery bombardment of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area continued.

At 1610 and 1640 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area while the artillery bombardment of the same area continued. It also affected Ayn Qana, Ayn Bu Siwar and Luwayzah. The bombardment and hostile overflights of the area continued until 1830 hours.

5 January 1997

At 0730 hours outlying areas of Jba' came under Israeli artillery fire. An artillery shell fell in the centre of Ayn Qana, on the main street, and caused serious damage to two dwellings.

At 1110 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm and the Asi and Jabal al-Kabir area of Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1220 hours Israeli warplanes bombarded outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm.

At 1600 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar and Haddatha in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1615 hours the Ayn al-Tinah mountain range in the Western Bekaa district came under artillery fire from Israeli and Lahad forces positions. It continued until 1830 hours.

At 2000 hours outlying areas of Luwayzah, Ayn Qana and Jarju' and areas along the Zahrani river in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area came under Israeli artillery fire.

6 January 1997

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Jba', Jarju', Ayn Qana, Ayn Bu Siwar and Arabsalim and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

7 January 1997

At 0730 hours outlying areas of Jba', Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Luwayzah and Arabsalim and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1445 hours outlying areas of Ayn Bu Siwar, Arabsalim and Jarju' and the Jarji'-Luwayzah highway came under Israeli artillery fire.

8 January 1997

At 0430 hours Israeli forces fired on the fishing vessel Nuh 1187, which had two Lebanese on board, one aged 15 and the other 18, from a gunboat off the

coast of Ma'liyah in Tyre district. The Israeli gunboat then proceeded to ram the vessel, causing it serious damage.

At 0600 hours the Abu Rashid and Bi'r al-Zahr hills in the vicinity of Zillaya and Libbaya and areas along the Litani river came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights of the area by Israeli helicopters that continued until 1140 hours.

At 0915 hours outlying areas of Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1815 hours outlying areas of Shukin, Mayfadun and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2100 hours Kafra and Yatar and outlying areas came under Israeli artillery fire.

9 January 1997

At 1700 hours personnel of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon brought three bodies to Tibnin Government Hospital.

At 2310 hours the hills surrounding Libbaya in Western Bekaa district came under artillery fire from Israeli and Lahad militia positions.

10 January 1997

At 0800 hours Israeli forces fired a number of bursts in various directions from a gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off the coast of Mansuri in Tyre district.

At 1500 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Sultaniyah, Haris, Ayta al-Jabal and Haddatha in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire.

11 January 1997

At 0830 hours Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under sniper fire from Israeli positions on the hills opposite. A civilian vehicle belonging to Dr. Izzat Abd al-Hamid Ghandur, director of Ghandur Hospital, was hit.

At 1230 hours a shell coming from Israeli positions in the border strip fell near a drinking-water well in the town of Suhmur in Western Bekaa district.

At 1430 hours the hills surrounding Libbaya, Qilya and Zillaya in Western Bekaa district came under artillery fire from Israeli and Lahad forces positions in the border strip.

13 January 1997

At 0900 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah and Nabatiyah areas.

At 1325 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitude.

14 January 1997

At 0730 hours outlying areas of Jba', Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Arabsalim and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire. It recommenced at 0830 hours and finally halted at 1230 hours.

At 1830 hours outlying areas of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

15 January 1997

At 0845 hours the hills to the south of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery fire.

16 January 1997

At 1200 hours occupation forces prevented the entry of a Lebanese truck that was accompanied by an International Committee of the Red Cross convoy and carrying some 150 ration allotments destined for Markaba, a town in Marj Uyun district that is encircled by occupation forces. This forced the truck to return to Nabatiyah.

At 1230 hours outlying areas of Bra'shit, Tibnin, Haddatha and Ayta al-Jabal came under Israeli artillery fire.

19 January 1997

At 0845 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area and carried out low-level mock attacks. This continued until 0300 hours on 20 January 1997.

20 January 1997

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Shaqra, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit and Tibnin came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1830 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Tyre at low altitude.

At 2145 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

21 January 1997

At 0745 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 1300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

27 January 1997

At 1630 hours a landmine was detonated by a herd of goats in an outlying area of Ayn al-Mir in Jazzin district. The Lahad militia then strafed the area with machine-guns for half an hour.

At 2220 hours the hills to the east of Qilya in Western Bekaa district came under artillery fire from Israeli and Lahad forces positions.

28 January 1997

At 0615 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0830 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Shaqra and Bra'shit in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area. The overflights continued until 1240 hours.

29 January 1997

At 1340 hours Israeli warplanes carried out a two-stage attack on the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and highlands in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

31 January 1997

At 1940 hours Israeli helicopters overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitude and strafed areas along the Nab' al-Tasah and outlying areas of Arabsalim and Jarju' with machine-guns.

At 2245 hours the Abu Rashid mountain range in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have left a number of casualties and have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative